

# WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

*Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant*

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Issue 2 – October 18, 2011

## **29 Weeks Until the May Primary!**

On Tuesday, October 18 there will be exactly 29 weeks until the May Primary! The Secretary of State's Office has distributed our calendars for the 2012 election. It has dozens of deadlines, requirements, and procedures listed. If you need more calendars, please feel free to contact us and we will get them to you as soon as possible.

## **Certification of Special Gubernatorial Election**

Please remember when transmitting your certified results from the Special Gubernatorial Election to include the number of votes received by **official write-in candidates**. You can transmit your certified results by emailing them to [elections@wvsos.com](mailto:elections@wvsos.com) or by fax at (304) 558-8386.

## **Redistricting Lawsuits**

The Secretary of State's Office has been named as a defendant in a lawsuit filed with the West Virginia Supreme Court which challenges the House of Delegates redistricting plan. The Secretary of State's Office has also received notice of intent to sue over the House of Delegates plan by three county commissions: Putnam, Mason, and Monroe. It is hoped that all three law suits (Putnam and Mason are filing jointly) can be consolidated into one ruling and expeditiously decided by the Court. The Secretary advises that counties have the option to continue as planned for redrawing precinct boundaries or counties can wait until the outcome of the lawsuit is settled. Regardless of the lawsuit, all counties are bound by a January 21, 2012 deadline (W.Va. State Code §1-2-2b) to redraw precinct boundary lines as necessary. **However, remember that there is a 30-day prior publication deadline for your plan.**

The Secretary of State's Office is also aware of notice of intent to sue over the US Congressional District Redistricting Act passed this last term. This notice does not name the Secretary of State as a defendant, but obviously would impact this office along with many counties. Keep an eye on the Election Connection for updates.

## **Reducing Costs In Elections**

Congressman Gregg Harper (R-Mississippi), the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Elections, would like to hear from election officials on how to reduce costs. In an email, the Congressman wrote: "If there are federal mandates that are especially costly to you that you think can be changed or eliminated, please tell us what they are. If you can quantify the costs and savings involved that would be especially

helpful, but it is not necessary. Any information you offer will contribute. Some election officials have given us input already, and we would like to get as many different viewpoints as possible." If you have any information you would like to pass along to him, you may contact Peter Schalestock of the House Administration Committee at (202) 225-3293 or [peter.schalestock@mail.house.gov](mailto:peter.schalestock@mail.house.gov). They are asking that you submit your information by October 31.

Of course, you can always contact the Elections Division of the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office at (304) 558-6000 at any time to discuss the efficiency of our elections.

### **Plans for Delegates to the National Conventions**

In preparation for the 2012 Election Cycle both the Democratic and Republican Parties have submitted their plans for Delegates to the National Convention to the Secretary of State as required by W.Va. State Code §3-5-2.

The plan for the West Virginia Democratic Party remains **largely unchanged** from 2008. The Party will hold county conventions and a state convention to select their delegates. Delegates to the Democratic National Convention will not be on the May 2012 Primary Election ballot.

The plan for the West Virginia Republican Party has **changed** from their plan in 2008. For 2012, the WV Republican Party will elect 18 at-large delegates and 9 district delegates on the ballot in the May 2012 Primary Election. Three additional delegates are selected by party rules. Candidates must be registered Republicans. Any person already eligible to vote in the Republican Primary (independents, etc., but not Democrat or Mountain) may vote on Delegates to the Republican National Convention. Because these will all be multi-county races, all candidates will file with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will certify the list of candidates to the counties at the same time and in the same manner as the certification of all other candidates for public office. Candidates for delegate will not be required to commit to a candidate for President. W.Va. State Code §3-5-13a(b)(3) (page 385 in the maroon Election Law Manual) addresses the order of names on the ballot. If you have questions about how to order the names, please contact the Elections Division.

### **Elections Division Expands**

In September, the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office added Andrew Ickes to its Elections Division. Ickes, a 2011 graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, comes to the Secretary of State's Office after serving as the Intern Coordinator for Senator Rockefeller in Washington. He interned with Congressman Rahall and Senator Rockefeller and also held campaign internships during the historic 2008 Election. Ickes is a lifelong resident of Greenbrier County.